

Wednesday January 26, 2005

To whom it may concern:

I am writing you today to voice my strong support for Indiana's current "Telephone Privacy Law". Indiana's law has brought some peace back into the home. Instead of answering **unwanted** sales calls several times a night we now receive virtually no unwanted sales calls. In my opinion Indiana's law does not go far enough because it exempts newspapers, and some Not for Profit Fund Raising Organizations. Indiana has been working hard to protect the privacy of it's citizens, and in my opinion this is not something that any Federal Office should have jurisdiction over. I believe this is a State issue.

I understand the Consumer Bankers Association is challenging Indiana's Telephone Privacy Law, and trying to force the federal "established business relationship" exemption on Indiana residents. I have reviewed the regulations pertaining to this "relationship", and find that it puts too large a burden on the unsuspecting consumer. By simply completing a sweepstakes or promotion entry form one could create an "established business relationship" and the companies that sponsor such promotions would be able to contact you for the next 18 months. This is not an acceptable answer. If a company wishes to contact you for **Telemarketing** purposes then you should have to **specifically authorize** them to call you by filling out a form, that **Clearly** and **Expressly** authorizes them to make the Telemarketing calls. Simply handing over your phone number to sign up for a promotion, or on a credit card application should not force you to endure 3 months or 18 months of sales calls. Signing up for a credit card should not even force you to endure one sales call, where you then have to expressly tell them to place you on their **Do Not Call** list. I can't tell you how many times I would start to tell a Telemarketer I wanted to be placed on a No call list and was literally hung up on mid sentence, only to be called again the next day or the next week by the same company. Of course since the Caller ID rarely gives you a company or phone number, it is not like you can easily take action against them, so you just end up putting up with the calls, because they are too hard to stop.

As I am sure you have figured out by now I am vehemently opposed to ANY changes to Indiana's "Telephone Privacy Law". If companies have their way phones will be nearly as useless as e-mail – what good is a service if 70 – 80% of what you receive is garbage? Please allow Indiana's law to stand un-scathed.

Sincerely,

William J. Mack III  
2653 E. McKay Rd.  
Shelbyville, IN 46176